

Application Serial No.: 10/684,201
Amendment dated June 16, 2006
Responsive to Office Action dated January 25, 2006

REMARKS


This Amendment is being filed in response to an Office Action mailed on January 25 2006. Claims 1-29 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 29 stand rejected and claims 4, 6, 7, 10-14, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 24-28 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims. Claims 1, 17 and 29 are independent. In this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claims 12 and 24, respectively, and claims 12, 24 and 29 have been cancelled. Furthermore, claims 4, 13 and 16 which were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, were amended to be written in independent form. All amendments and cancellations have been made without prejudice solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file later continuation applications directed to the claims that have been canceled or amended herein. Applicants respectfully maintain that no new subject matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 13-23 and 25-28 remain pending in this application.

Accordingly, by reasons of the amendments made herein, Applicants submit that all of the claims remaining in the application (i.e., 1-11, 13-23 and 25-28) are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the present application in view of the amendments to the claims and remarks provided herein is respectfully requested.

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No fee, other than the fee for the petition for extension of time submitted herewith, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,



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